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President Shelly praises high court decision to uphold tribal sovereignty



President Shelly said the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community* strengthens tribal sovereignty. (Photo by Jared King)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly issued the following statement about the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community*:

“Tribes have won few victories at the U.S. Supreme Court in recent years, but today in a case with implications for every tribe in the country, our sovereignty was upheld. Tribal sovereignty is not an abstract concept to be curtailed at the whim of a state. It is the concrete foundation of a government-to-government relationship that has shaped the federal relationship with Native Americans. We commend the court for following precedent. The Navajo Nation remains cautiously optimistic about the ruling because while sovereign

immunity was upheld, the Court indicates other tools at the state of Michigan’s disposal that erode sovereignty.”

The Navajo Nation joined an amicus brief, which supported the sovereignty of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

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